

A CHALLENGE TO THE NEW ALICE COOPER AND HIS ROCK AND ROLL CHRISTIANITY

Updated April 2, 2002 (first published March 10, 2002) (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

Shock rocker Alice Cooper (born Vince Furnier), who preached violence and rebellion through his music in the 1970s and who led the way for many other degenerate rock acts, such as Marilyn Manson, says in a new interview that the fear of hell turned him to God in the 1980s. Speaking with *HM* (Heaven's Metal) *magazine*, Cooper said he attended a church with a "hellfire pastor" and turned to Christ. Of his conversion, he says that initially it was "more out of the fear of God, rather than the love of God ... I did not want to go to hell." Of course, the fear of God is not a wrong motive. A sinner cannot properly know the love of God until he knows the fear of God. God is not only love; He is a holy judge. Proverbs 1:7 says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 16:6 says it is by the fear of the Lord that men depart from evil. Cooper's father was a pastor, as was his wife's father. It is good that he finally learned the fear of God.

He told *HM magazine*, "I was one thing at one time, and I'm something new. I'm a new creature now. Don't judge Alice by what he used to be. Praise God for what I am now."

Since we don't the man and thus don't know what he is now, we can't speak about that; but we are very glad that he is not what he once was!

I would like to pose the following important questions to Alice Cooper:

(1) WHY HAVE YOU NOT SPOKEN OUT JUST AS LOUDLY AND PUBLICLY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AS YOU DID ABOUT REBELLION?

There were little hints in the media from time to time since the late 1980s that you had turned to religion. I knew about it then, but it was only a hushed whisper without the details and you have refused to give interviews about it until now. And this current interview was given to a publication with a very small circulation. Multitudes of young people have been influenced by your vile music. They screamed hysterically when you ripped apart baby manikins and did other things too vile to describe. They listened in rapt attention when you sang about screaming at mothers and living for "lace and whiskey," when you mocked education and gloried in "The Last Temptation."

Do the millions of former Alice Cooper fans, who were influenced by albums such as "Alice Cooper Goes to Hell" and "Raise Your Fist and Yell," know that you have renounced the things you did then? Public sin calls for an equally public repentance.

(2) HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT YOUR FORMER ROCK CAREER WAS “NEVER POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS”?

That is what you told *HM magazine*, but it rings hollow. What about the song “Hallowed Be My Name,” in which you sang, “Screaming at mothers, cursing the Bible, hallowed be my name”? Was that not religious in the most blasphemous way? What about your “Welcome to My Nightmare” tour, which featured images of the devil, witchdoctors, and other occultic themes? Was that not religious?

In fact, everything you performed in those days had a religious aspect, even if it did not mention God, because it was aimed directly at the breaking of God’s holy commandments. God commands young people to have no other gods before Him, but you told them to serve themselves above all. God commands young people to obey their parents, but you told them to disobey.

Religion aside, your rock career was definitely rebellious, immoral, and ungodly, and it encouraged countless young people to throw their lives away in vile pursuits. Your song “I’m Eighteen” glorifies teenage rebellion, encourages them to do whatever they feel like doing. It became a teen anthem. Only the Lord knows how many young people have destroyed themselves through wicked living by the influence of rock songs like this, who have drank and drugged themselves to death, who have crashed their cars and motorcycles, who have broken their parents’ hearts, destroyed their marriages, lost their jobs, gambled away their money, committed suicide, and otherwise acted out the wickedness of the fallen human heart – all the time with the vicious music of Alice Cooper ringing in their ears.

You used to admit your role in stirring up rebellion. You were quoted by *Circus* magazine in August 1976 as saying, “If I were a kid, Alice would be my hero. He’s a rebellion symbol. He doesn’t have to answer to anybody.” In February 1972, *Circus* again quoted you as saying that “rebellion is the basis for our group.”

(3) WHY HAVE YOU NOT LIFTED YOUR VOICE AGAINST THE VILE ROCK AND ROLL INDUSTRY?

Surely, you, of all people, know that it is destroying the moral fiber of civilization today and that is fostering a spirit of rebellion among the youth. This is the industry that has produced Marilyn Manson and Eminem and the Beastie Boys and countless others just as ungodly. You helped pave the way for this. Your voice against all of this now would be influential. A spiritual battle is raging today. Why are you so silent? Why do you sit comfortably on the sidelines and play your golf everyday and rake in the money from your renewed rock career while a generation goes to eternal hell through the influence of

the aforementioned groups and countless others like them? One little cautious interview is not enough.

You are I are the same generation. You turn 54 this year; I turn 53. You and I went down the same path of rebellion. Before I was saved in 1973, I was a foolish young man who was wickedly influenced in the 1960s by rock and roll musicians – just as you were. I almost destroyed my life with drugs as you did with alcohol. Some of my old friends are dead because of the rock and roll lifestyle. How many of your old friends are no longer here and no longer, therefore, have an opportunity to be saved? You have admitted in interviews that rock and rollers were your heroes, your gods. You said, “Let me tell you who my big brothers were. Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Keith Moon, Harry Nilsson.”

These young men destroyed themselves with the rock and roll lifestyle. The only thing positive that can be said for them from a biblical standpoint is that they lived the rebellion that they preached.

You have referred to rock music as a disease that people catch. You have spoken of the “guitar germ” and you testify that you caught that germ when you were young. I believe that is true, that there is a hypnotic, enchanting, sensual spirit to rock and roll and this explains its power to capture the hearts of people generation after generation. Rock and roll almost destroyed you and your marriage, yet you haven’t condemned it except perhaps in the vaguest, most polite terms. In fact, you still praise it. You talk about the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin as great bands. Great in whose eyes? Great in the eyes of a thrice holy God? You do not warn people of the evil of these groups. By your actions, you are encouraging generation after generation to be destroyed by the vile rock bands that come along one after the other like the plague.

Rock and roll musicians cannot sing about filth and violence and rebellion and saluting the devil and then turn around later and claim that it was all in fun, that it was just entertainment. Large numbers of their fans don’t see it that way and, according to the Bible, neither does God.

(4) WHY ARE YOU STILL PERFORMING WICKED ROCK MUSIC?

Yes, you say that you are changing the lyrics, but it is still rock and roll and by continuing to perform it, you are still encouraging young people to live in that filthy world. And even with a change in the lyrics, much of what you sing and perform is condemned by the Bible. It is the unfruitful works of darkness that is mentioned in Ephesians 5:11 describes – uncleanness, filthiness, foolish talking, jesting. God’s Word says the believer is not to have fellowship with these things but is to reprove them.

Your 1986 come-back concert, which occurred after your religious experience, featured many vile things from earlier days, including snakes, chopped-up baby dolls, hangings, even your own staged execution by a guillotine.

The 15,000 tickets for your comeback concert sold out in two hours. What an influence you have, and you will be held accountable for it.

Your shows continue to include some of the aforementioned things. Your own grown daughter dresses scantily like Britney Spears and participates in your rock shows.

You told *HM magazine* that you don't perform some of your old songs any more. That is good. Why perform any of them? In fact, why do you not go back to the name your parents gave you when you entered this world? Why hold on to the name Alice Cooper with its transsexual connotations and all of the evil baggage that you willfully attached to it? I know you made it your legal name, but you could at least renounce it. Before the whole world, what does the name Alice Cooper stand for?

You said that ten years ago you went to your pastor and said, "I can't be Alice Cooper any more." He replied, "Do you think God makes mistakes?" and he encouraged you to continue as Alice. God was dealing with you then, but what strange advice your pastor gave you! Was God leading in your life when you created the vile Alice character? Is God in favor of a man taking a woman's name and wearing women's clothing and singing about filth and rebellion? I would remind you of the words of Jesus Christ. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles" (Matt. 7:15-16). When your pastor said that, you should have been like the wise Bereans of old and tested his counsel by the Scriptures and, having found it to be contrary, rejected it (Acts 17:11). There are many pastors today who are like the old prophet we read of in 1 Kings 13:18, who tell lies in the name of God and who lead people out of the way of the truth and thus destroy them by their false counsel.

You were quoted as follows in a newspaper in Australia during your tour there a few months ago, "I believe in classic Christianity. I'VE GIVEN MY WHOLE LIFE TO THE LORD. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T BE A ROCK 'N' ROLLER." You have adopted a rock and roll Christianity. It is the popular form of Christianity today, but it is not what we see in the Bible. That type of Christianity "abhors that which is evil" (Rom. 12:9) and "eschews evil" (1 Pet. 3:11). It abstains from all appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). Not only does it avoid evil; it reproves evil (Eph. 5:11). It serves God with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28), always conscious that God not only is a loving God but is also "a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). The will of God for a Christian is that he be pure and zealous of good works (Titus 2:14). On the other hand, the Bible frequently warns about false Christianity. It warns about those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5), about those "who

profess that they know God, but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16), about those who say “Lord, Lord” but do not know Christ (Matt. 7:21-23).

Where in the Bible do we find a rock and roll Christianity? Is it the true Christianity described above, or the false? One can get along fine with rock and roll Christianity in this life and one will have many supporters and defenders; but God will not judge us after the thinking of the majority. His judgments are based strictly upon His Word.

You lifted up your voice in the 1970s and welcomed young people to your nightmare. I urge you to lift up a voice just as loud and enthusiastic to welcome young people to Jesus Christ and to boldly and explicitly renounce everything you did in the past and the evils of rock music in general. Renounce the false rock and roll Christianity and turn to the truth. Use your media fame to get this glorious message into every major publication in the land and around the globe.

May God give you the conviction and courage to do it. Many will be praying for that.

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